

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN FEBRUARY 2004

U.S. mine production of iron ore in February 2004, on a daily average basis, was 14% higher than that of the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily production was 146,000 metric tons per day (t/d), compared with 128,000 t/d in January 2004. Shipments decreased by 68% compared with those of January 2004. Mine stocks at the end of

February 2004 were 85% higher than those at the end of January 2004.

Note

All data in this report have been rounded to no more than three significant digits. Totals and percentages were calculated using unrounded data.

TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
<u>2003:</u>				
February	4,290	8,610	1,140	4,030
March	4,080	12,700	1,810	5,830
April	4,230	16,900	4,790	10,600
May	4,010	20,900	5,340	16,000
June	3,740	24,700	4,840	20,800
July	3,920	28,600	4,450	25,200
August	3,950	32,500	4,330	29,600
September	3,870	36,400	4,220	33,800
October	4,190	40,600	4,370	38,200
November	4,140	44,700	4,540	42,700
December	3,740	48,500	5,170	47,900
<u>2004:</u>				
January	3,950	3,950	3,770	3,770
February	4,230	8,180	1,190	4,960

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Excludes byproduct ores.

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE IN FEBRUARY^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

State	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks ⁴	
	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003
Michigan	1,080	1,230	305	236	1,920	2,010
Minnesota	3,150	3,060	882	904	5,450	5,780
Total	4,230	4,290	1,190	1,140	7,370	7,790

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Excludes byproduct ore.

³Includes rail and vessel.

⁴Includes mines, plants, and loading docks.

TABLE 3
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE¹

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland	Quebec	British Columbia	Total
2003:				
January	862	699	6	1,570
February	674	580	6	1,260
March	989	578	7	1,570
April	1,800	1,120	5	2,930
May	1,960	1,540	4	3,510
June	2,090	1,260	5	3,360
July	2,140	1,460	8	3,610
August	1,530	1,100	6	2,630
September	1,710	1,240	7	2,950
October	2,080	1,500	6	3,580
November	2,260	1,190	5	3,450
December	1,740	1,060	6	2,800
Year total	19,800	13,300	69	33,200
2004:				
January	1,370	839	6	2,210

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 4
CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE AND BLAST FURNACE PRODUCTION OF
HOT METAL AT U.S. IRON AND STEEL PLANTS^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Consumption by source	Consumption of ores and agglomerates			
	December		January-December ³	
	2003	2002	2003	2002
United States ores	3,870	3,770	49,000	47,000
Canadian ores	318	416	3,620	4,440
Foreign ores	552	664	6,980	7,390
Total	4,740	4,850	59,600	58,800
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	4,400	4,350	53,800	52,900
Steel furnaces	2	40	133	301
Agglomerating plants ⁴	342	465	5,650	5,620
Miscellaneous ⁵	--	--	25	2
Total	4,740	4,850	59,600	58,800
Stocks of ores and agglomerates, December 31				
Storage point	2003	2002		
Furnace yards	10,900	12,400		
Receiving/transfer docks	1,630	1,820		
Total consumer	12,600	14,200		
Blast furnace production of hot metal				
	December		January-December ³	
	2003	2002	2003	2002
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	3,390	3,340	39,100	40,200
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	31	29	XX	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Includes revisions to previous month's data.

⁴Iron ore and iron ore concentrates consumed in agglomerating plants not located at the mine or plant site.

⁵Sold to nonreporting companies or used for purposes not listed.

Sources: American Iron Ore Association (consumption of iron ore) and American Iron and Steel Institute (production of hot metal and pig iron).

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION AND TYPE^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type	2003						2004
	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter	October	November	December	January
Canada	2,060	2,130	1,700	589	515	600	605
Mexico	(3)	7	1	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Other	4	30	76	1	26	49	30
Total	2,070	2,170	1,780	590	541	649	636
Pellets	2,060	2,110	1,780	587	540	648	635
Other	6	53	6	4	1	(3)	1
Total	2,070	2,170	1,780	590	541	649	636

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY AND TYPE^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin and type of product	2004					2003
	January		Year to date			January
	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ³ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	61
Brazil	421	9,880	421	9,880	23.46	450
Canada	320	11,600	320	11,600	36.06	141
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	(4)
Other	26	551	26	551	20.93	--
Total	768	22,000	768	22,000	28.63 ⁵	652
Fine ores	241	4,310	241	4,310	17.87	61
Pellets	526	17,700	526	17,700	33.56	524
Other agglomerates	(4)	3	(4)	3	39.91	68
Roasted pyrites	--	--	--	--	--	(4)
Total	768	22,000	768	22,000	28.63 ⁵	652

-- Zero.

¹Data, with the exception of the dollars per ton column, are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

⁴Less than 1/2 unit.

⁵Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN JANUARY 2004^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of origin	Type of product						Total
	Concentrates	Coarse ores	Fine ores	Pellets	Briquettes and other agglomerates	Roasted pyrites	
Brazil	--	--	214	207	--	--	421
Canada	--	--	1	320	--	--	320
Other	--	--	26	--	(3)	--	26
Total	--	--	241	526	(3)	--	768

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY¹

Country of origin	2004					2003
	January		Year to date			January
	Thousand	Value ²	Thousand	Value ²	Value ²	Thousand
	metric	(thousand	metric	(thousand	(dollars	metric
	tons	dollars)	tons	dollars)	(dollars	tons
		per ton)				
Brazil	207	6,130	207	6,130	29.62	450
Canada	320	11,500	320	11,500	36.11	74
Total	526	17,700	526	17,700	33.56 ³	524

¹Data, with the exception of the dollars per ton column, are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

³Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 9
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE,
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	January	
	2004	2003
Baltimore, MD (13)	389	202
Buffalo, NY (09)	1	--
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	37
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	(3)
Mobile, AL (19)	--	59
New Orleans, LA (20)	378	353
Total	768	652

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 10
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS,
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	January	
	2004	2003
Baltimore, MD (13)	175	74
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	--	37
Mobile, AL (19)	--	59
New Orleans, LA (20)	352	354
Total	526	524

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits;
may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.